

I-195 REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMISSION

MEETING OF PARKS DESIGN SUBCOMMITTEE

December 1, 2014

The Parks Design Subcommittee (the "Subcommittee") of the I-195 Redevelopment District met on Monday, December 1, 2014 beginning at 4:45 PM, at the offices of the Commerce RI, located at 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island.

The following Subcommittee members were present and participated throughout the meeting: Ms. Diana Johnson and Mr. John Kelly. Ms. Barbara Hunger joined the meeting late.

Also present were Ms. Jan Brodie, District Executive Director, and Project Associate, Kate Holguin. In addition, David Freeman of CDR Maguire, Lambri Zerva of RI DOT, Kelly Carr of BETA Group and Bonnie Nickerson of the City of Providence were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 4:50 PM.

1. There was a discussion surrounding Barnaby Evans' presentation on his overall Park and Bridge design issues and DOT Director Michael Lewis' letter of November 13, 2014 in response to these issues. The first of Mr. Evans' three main points concerned raising the height of the bridge to allow active uses below. Director Lewis' response pointed out that upriver and downriver height limitations preclude such active uses and what is needed is dredging of the river. Such an effort should be part of a more comprehensive plan by the City and State in the future using Federal resources.
2. The second point addressed the future construction of a River Walk extension to ultimately connect to South Street Landing. Director Lewis' letter stated it would cost \$2 million to construct such a RiverWalk extension, which is not within the budget. However, nothing being done now would preclude a change to structured river walk paths and possible boat ramps in the future and that there were multiple solutions for constructing a boardwalk underneath the bridge.
3. The third point discussed was how best to face the river, comparing river terracing as designed, with the suggestion of a sloping lawn. It was suggested that the as-designed upland walkway be pulled in enough so that the sloping lawn to the river is at a comfortable slope, without overly impacting the design and size of the "great lawn." The addition of a foot path between the sloping lawn and the riprap river edge on both the north and south edges of the pedestrian bridge landing would be a good addition and would act as a soft extension of the existing River Walk. It was also discussed that the walkways on the outline of the promontory should be smoother to soften the curve of the walkway. Narrowing the promontory to reduce the area of hardscape was also taken into consideration.

4. The addition of a water feature in the West Side Park was also discussed. Nina Richardson of Brown Richardson Rowe had previously estimated it would cost \$1.3 million to build a double arched water feature on the promenade of the West Side Park, mostly due to the expense of pumping systems and water circulation. A fundraising effort for a figure this high would prove to be very difficult, so it was discussed that Ms. Richardson offer ideas for water features that would be more cost-effective and closer to \$400,000.
5. Next Steps: It was suggested that DOT and the West Side Park designers provide 10% drawings for the River Walk adjustments for January/February. At that time there will also be an update from the West Side Park designers on the bathrooms and storage structure for the park. Discussions regarding the water feature will continue, and Ms. Richardson will present further options for the Subcommittee's consideration for both the feature and its location.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.



I-195 Parks Design Subcommittee Member